

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SSM-03 SSC-01
EB-08 ACDA-07 MCT-01 DHA-02 /105 W
-----240811 023786 /17

R 221429Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 676
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1068

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR JO FR XF
SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO JORDAN

1. FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD VISITED JORDAN 20-21
FEBRUARY ON HEELS OF SECRETARY VANCE. GOJ PLAYED
FRENCH MINISTERS STAY IN COMPARATIVELY LOWER KEY
FOCUSING HIS ITINERARY AROUND THE CABINET RATHER THAN THE
ROYAL PALACE AS IN SECRETARY VANCE'S CASE. DE GUIRINGAUD
MET AND LUNCHEDED WITH KING HUSSEIN, BUT MOST OF HIS TIME
SPENT WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRAN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS IBRAHIM, AND CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, WITH WHOM
HE DISCUSSED JORDAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. AS
IF TO COMPENSATE FOR SECOND ECHELON TREATMENT, FRENCH
FOREIGN MINISTER WAS AWARDED JORDAN STAR MEDAL AS
EXPRESSION OF JORDAN-FRANCE FRIENDSHIP.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS JORDANIANS IN DISCUSSIONS
WITH DE GUIRINGAUD REPEATED FAMILIAR PRINCIPLES
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THAT PEACE SETTLEMENT REQUIRES TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ENSURING RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS
PEOPLE AND PEACE AND SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ALL STATES
IN THE AREA. AS FOR PEACE PROCESS JORDANIANS RESTATED
THEME OF EARLIEST POSSIBLE RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE
ESSENTIAL PARTICIPATION OF PLO AND GOJ PARTICIPATION
AS CONFRONTATION STATE. DE GUIRINGAUD REPORTED BY

PRESS AS EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF ESTABLISHING PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND" WITH INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES, RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY AND FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND GENEVA IF INVITED. IN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL JOURNALISTS FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER QUITED AS ADDING THAT PALESTINIANS MUST PARTICIPATE IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT FRANCE FROM ITS HISTORY IN THE REGION AND ITS POSITION AS PERMANENT MEMBER OF UNSC HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS.

3. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR TOLD EMOFF THAT DE GUIRINGAUD'S EXPRESSION OF FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE REPRESENTS SEVERAL STEPS FORWARD FROM MORE HESITANT POSITION THAT PRESIDENT D-ESTAING TOOK ON QUESTION DURING HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST MONTH. BY SAME TOKEN DE GUIRINGAUDS USE OF TERM PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND" RATHER THAN "STATE" OR "POLITICAL ENTITY" INTERPRETED BY LOCAL FRENCH EMBASSY AS STEP BACK FROM FOREIGN MINISTERS FORWARD POSITION ON THIS QUESTION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT DE GUIRINGAUD CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND ARE MYSTERY TO FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO RECALL NO SUCH SUGGESTION BY THEIR VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER. PRESS APPARENTLY MISTOOK QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION THAT OCCURRED OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR ENTIRE PEACE SETTLEMENT. ONLY OTHER ITEM OF NOTE BEYOND PRESS REPORTS OF VISIT ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR WAS FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIALS'S IMPRESSION THAT GOJ REMAINS STRONGLY COMMITTED TO RABAT PRINCIPLE GIVING PLO SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PALESTINIANS MATTERS BECAUSE GOJ BELIEVES PLO IS SERIOUSLY EXPANDING ITS BASE BEYOND MILITANTS TO INCLUDE ALL SHADES OF PALESTINIANS OPINION. FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR SAID HIS EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY ASSUMED GOJ DOUBTED PLO WOULD CHANGE THAT MUCH.

4. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE GOJ HAS THE STRONGEST DOUBTS ABOUT THE PLO'S INTENTION AND LIKELIHOOD OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGING ITS INTERNAL POWER STRUCTURE AND ITS POLICIES. GOJ'S PUBLIC ADHERENCE TO RABAT PRINCIPLE ABOUT PLO DERIVES FROM ITS INTENTION NOT TO MOVE TOO FAR AHEAD OF OTHER ARAB STATES IN EXPLORING A JORDANIANS ROLE IN PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977AMMAN01068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770063-1187
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770223/aaaaatxe.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5149f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3269591
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER TO JORDAN
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, JO, FR, XF, (GUIRINGAUD, LOUIS DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5149f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009